

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) A commode seat for selectively permitting increased manual access to a perianal region of a human seated thereon following use of said commode, comprising:

a base plate hingedly connected to a rear portion of a rim of a bowl of the commode; and
first and second arm plates extending from the base plate along the rim;

wherein at least one of the arm plates is connected to the base plate via a hinge and is movable independently of the other of the arm plates between a closed position at which the one of the arm plates is aligned with the rim and an open position at which the one of the arm plates is laterally displaced from the rim to provide an opening of substantially greater vertical dimension between the rim and a thigh or buttock of the human.

2. (original) A commode seat according to claim 1, wherein the hinge is a disk hinge.

3. (original) A commode seat according to claim 2, wherein the disk hinge comprises:

a post fixedly molded into the base plate and extending into a recess in the one of the arm plates; and

a pair of generally circular disks rotatably mounted concentrically upon the post and disposed in mutually facing relation.

4. (original) A commode seat according to claim 3, wherein one of the disks is molded into the base plate and the other of the disks is molded into the one of the arm plates.
5. (original) A commode seat according to claim 4, wherein each of the disks further comprises at least one supporting member extending into the seat.
6. (original) A commode seat according to claim 4, wherein one of the disks comprises at least one ridge extending therefrom toward the other of the disks, and the other of the disks comprises a complementary detent aligned with the ridge when the one of the arm plates is in the closed position.
7. (original) A commode seat according to claim 3, wherein the disk hinge further comprises a spring biased to urge the disks together.
8. (original) A commode seat according to claim 3, wherein the post comprises a bolt and a nut.
9. (original) A commode seat according to claim 1, further comprising a foot extending from an underside portion of one of the arm plates at a distal end thereof in vertical and lateral supporting relation thereto upon the rim.
10. (original) A commode seat according to claim 1, further comprising a gripping location disposed on an underside portion of at least one of the arm plates.

11. (original) A commode seat according to claim 1, wherein the hinge is a post hinge.
12. (original) A commode seat according to claim 1, wherein the connection between the base plate and the one of the arm plates is configured to inhibit pinching when the arm plate is moved from the open position to the closed position.
13. (new) A commode seat for selectively permitting increased manual access to a perianal region of a human seated thereon following use of said commode, comprising:
- a base plate hingedly connected to a rear portion of a rim of a bowl of the commode; and
 - first and second arm plates extending from the base plate along the rim;
- wherein at least one of the arm plates is connected to the base plate via a disk hinge and is movable between a closed position at which the one of the arm plates is aligned with the rim and an open position at which the one of the arm plates is laterally displaced from the rim to provide an opening of substantially greater vertical dimension between the rim and a thigh or buttock of the human, and wherein the disk hinge comprises:
- a post fixedly molded into the base plate and extending into a recess in the one of the arm plates; and
 - a pair of generally circular disks rotatably mounted concentrically upon the post and disposed in mutually facing relation.
14. (new) A commode seat according to claim 13, wherein one of the disks is molded into the base plate and the other of the disks is molded into the one of the arm plates.

15. (new) A commode seat according to claim 14, wherein each of the disks further comprises at least one supporting member extending into the seat.

16. (new) A commode seat according to claim 14, wherein one of the disks comprises at least one ridge extending therefrom toward the other of the disks, and the other of the disks comprises a complementary detent aligned with the ridge when the one of the arm plates is in the closed position.

17. (new) A commode seat according to claim 13, wherein the disk hinge further comprises a spring biased to urge the disks together.

18. (new) A commode seat according to claim 13, wherein the post comprises a bolt and a nut.

19. (new) A commode seat for selectively permitting increased manual access to a perianal region of a human seated thereon following use of said commode, comprising:

a base plate hingedly connected to a rear portion of a rim of a bowl of the commode; and
first and second arm plates extending from the base plate along the rim;

wherein each of the arm plates is connected to the base plate via a respective hinge such that each arm plate is movable independently of the other of the arm plates between a closed position at which the one of the arm plates is aligned with the rim and an open position at which

the one of the arm plates is laterally displaced from the rim to provide an opening of substantially greater vertical dimension between the rim and a thigh or buttock of the human.